

**To:** ellen.roberts.senate@state.co.us[ellen.roberts.senate@state.co.us]  
**From:** Wall, Dan  
**Sent:** Mon 8/17/2015 10:30:13 PM  
**Subject:** RE: August 31st meeting, 10:30am-1pm, at the Durango Public Library, to discuss possible formation of Coalition of Animas River Spill Partners similar to San Luis Valley's RWEACT coalition

Senator Roberts

I have been involved for the last 4 years characterizing the Animas River near Silverton and the neighboring mining districts. The work has extended to the Durango area as we have attempted to quantify the downstream extent of the contamination. I was also in the Silverton area with a field crew and sampling supplies when the Gold King incident occurred. This incident has for me, highlighted the many other stakeholders that to date I do not believe have been represented or engaged with the activities in Silverton and the effects downstream.

I would very much like to participate in this meeting but will likely be unavailable until the week of the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Please retain me on this distribution list in case plans change.

Sincerely,

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**From:** Sen. Ellen Roberts [mailto:senatorellenroberts@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2015 9:47 AM

**To:** from: Sarah Jacobson; to: Liane Jollon; Myers, Craig; Butch Knowlton; msouder@southernute-nsn.gov; kgurule@southernute-nsn.gov; terry.hoecker@durangogov.org; drew.petersen@state.co.us; trevor.denney@state.co.us; Thomas McNamara; Matt.Thorpe@state.co.us; casey.kay@state.co.us; greg.naugle@state.co.us; heather.drissel@state.co.us; patrick.j.pfaltzgraff@state.co.us; Ron.LeBlanc@durangogov.org; cathy.metz@durangogov.org; christinarinderle@durangogov.org; dbrookie@cityofdurango.gov; marybeth.miles@durangogov.org; mitchell.carter@durangogov.org; wayne.walsh@durangogov.org; victor.locke@durangogov.org; matt.holden@durangogov.org; steve.salka@durangogov.org; tpage@firenet.org; john.alves@state.co.us; patt.dorsey@state.co.us; lyon@lpcattorney.org; Sheryl Rogers; ken.charles@state.co.us; jack@durangobusiness.org; Karola Hanks; davissg@durangofirerescue.org; bairdsl@durangofirerescue.org; Wall, Dan; Christenson, Dave; Ostrander, David; Griswold, Hays; Stevenson, Peter; Thomi, Wendy; Portillos, Christine; khieux.joyel@epa.gov; Gwen Lachelt; Janalee Hogan; Joanne Spina; Joe Kerby; pfoster@wrightwater.com; Todd Weaver; markanderson90@hotmail.com; jtl@durango.net; Sean Smith; Frank Sandoval; j.white@state.co.us; andrewmiller@centura.org; akimple@mountainstudies.org; marcie@mountainstudies.org; director@sjcph.org; laila@sjcph.org; CooperD@sjces.net; oem@sanjuancountycolorado.us; darlene.marcus@mail.house.gov; rcorkish@gmail.com; john\_whitney@bennet.senate.gov; ellen.roberts.senate@state.co.us; tojohns@southernute-nsn.gov; switema@southernute-nsn.gov; butlerpeter2@gmail.com; Hestmark, Martin; Chad Moore; Julie Westendorff; Doug Lyon; Buck Skillen; Kara Chadwick; Claire Ninde; Laura Sherman; Steve Smith; J. Paul Brown; dan olson

**Cc:** Travis Smith; Tom Spezze

**Subject:** August 31st meeting, 10:30am-1pm, at the Durango Public Library, to discuss possible formation of Coalition of Animas River Spill Partners similar to San Luis Valley's RWEACT coalition

Dear All,

Yesterday, a group of us met to gauge interest in asking members of the Rio Grande Watershed Emergency Action Coordination Team (RWEACT) of the San Luis Valley to come to our area to discuss the why's and how's of the coalition they formed after the West Fork Complex wildfires in 2013. We discussed whether there is interest and energy in forming a similar coalition of partners after the Animas River mine spill. More information about RWEACT can be found at their comprehensive website located at [www.rweact.org](http://www.rweact.org) and, if you're not familiar with the community-based coalition, I encourage you to take a look at that.

The reasons that we might consider forming a similar effort to RWEACT would be if we wanted to take the Animas River spill "experience" and apply lessons learned, work collaboratively to advance recovery and restoration of the Animas watershed, help streamline and coordinate the efforts of the many entities, organizations and governments seeking to inform and educate the public and, finally, strengthen the ties that were developed in the wake of the spill. Such a

coalition, if formed, however, would decide its purpose and length of duration. Such a coalition is not proposed as a new organization, but would respect the various entities' existing roles, responsibilities and authorities. However, the value added would be avoiding duplication of efforts and a better awareness of needs being met and gaps still to be filled.

We also discussed the good possibility of receiving funds from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCBC) to hire a temporary contract coordinator, if a coalition is determined to be formed locally. The coordinator would assist the coalition's efforts to identify what resources we have already in our area, who the partners in such a coalition would be, what resources are lacking, etc. This funding is likely to be readily available, based on yesterday's meeting, I was asked to proceed with making that request of CWCBC this week. CWCBC has assisted with other similar efforts across Colorado when there have been disasters affecting the state's water resources. RWEACT has a coordinator and has found that essential to their effective operations in the San Luis Valley, post-fire.

**We agreed to meet again, on August 31st, at 10:30am until 1pm, at the Durango Public Library, 1900 East 3rd Avenue, main floor large meeting room, to hear from members of RWEACT, and to further discuss a desire to move forward with such a coalition in our region. We invite any and all from non-profit organizations, other affected entities, and governmental bodies to join us in this discussion. This is not a meeting for the public at large as it's anticipated that other efforts are already directed at that.**

Below are the brief notes from yesterday's meeting, with thanks to Patt Dorsey, of Colorado Parks and Wildlife for taking them. With the county's permission, I have used La Plata County's group email list and added those who attended yesterday in an effort to be as inclusive as possible. If someone is missing from the list, particularly from San Juan County, who should know of this meeting, please pass it along to them or to me, preferably with an email address.

**Please RSVP to me so that we know the approximate size of the group planning to attend and, if you have any questions, please let me know. I will be on the road most of the time between now and the meeting, so email is the best way to reach me.**

Thanks! - Ellen

**Ellen S. Roberts, State Senator, President *Pro Tempore***

Interim contact information:

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**Notes :**

1. Interest in communications -

- distilling information in a way that the public can understand it.
- Putting all the information on one page
- Active communication within different spheres, but not as much between spheres
- MSI - story map with sample points, how plume moved, etc.

2. Resources -

- Fort Lewis College - Library/Archives has offered to be the repository of record for all data, etc. about the spill
- Suggested that \$ could come from DOLA, CDPHE (Water and Power Authority), CWCB, DRMS, etc.

3. Concerns/Issues -

- San Juan County needs to be part of the coalition if they are interested
- Much interest in communicating with NM. May not need to be in coalition, but need to have some mechanism for interacting with NM.
- What would have been different if coalition was in place before the spill?
- How do we sustain interest
- Is this the right issue to galvanize our community? Will it divide our community due to the politics?

4. Next meeting -

- Looking at Aug 31, 10:30-1:30
- Reach out to SJ County
- Invite RWEACT
- Find "neutral" location